

10-30-98

FACT SHEET

FEDERAL PLAN FOR LARGE EXISTING MUNICIPAL WASTE COMBUSTORS

TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is adopting a Federal plan for large municipal waste combustor (MWC) units constructed on or before September 20, 1994. The Federal Plan is a set of requirements that implement the 1995 MWC emission guidelines, which were revised in 1997. This regulation covers those large existing MWC units not specifically covered by an approved State plan. MWCs built after 1994 are covered by the Federal new source performance standards.
- The Federal plan fills a gap until State plans are approved and ensures that the MWC units stay on track to complete pollution control equipment retrofit schedules in time to meet the final statutory compliance date of December 19, 2000. The Federal plan no longer applies when a State plan is approved.
- To make the transition as smooth as possible between the Federal plan and subsequently approved State plans, EPA incorporated compliance schedules already negotiated with MWC owners and operators into the final Federal plan.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

- Implementation of the MWC emission guidelines through the Federal and State plans will reduce toxic air pollutant emissions by 112,000 tons per year. The standards reduce dioxin emissions by 99 percent, as well as sharply reduce other air pollutants like mercury, lead, and cadmium.
- Emissions from MWCs contain organic emissions (dioxins/furans), metal emissions (cadmium, lead, mercury, particulate matter), and acid gas emissions, (hydrogen chloride, sulphur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides). These pollutants can cause adverse effects to the public health and the environment. For instance dioxin, lead and mercury can bioaccumulate in the environment. Acid gases contribute to the acid rain that damages lakes and harms forests and buildings. Additionally, nitrogen oxides emissions can contribute to ground level ozone, which is associated with a number of adverse health and environmental effects.
- This Federal plan ensures that emission limits and other requirements are in place for MWC units located in States that have not submitted approvable State plans. The Federal plan ensures that the MWC rules are implemented and enforced until State plans are approved, thus ensuring the health and environmental benefits envisioned by the 1995 rules.
- **EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner has said about the MWC regulations, "this proposal will result in a major reduction in dioxin emissions and other air pollutants**

from municipal incinerators. It represents the strongest action ever taken to control emissions from municipal incinerators. It signifies the Administration's aggressive efforts to protect the health of the American people."

The table below shows emission reductions expected from control equipment used to retrofit existing MWC plants.

Pollutant	Typical Uncontrolled Level	Typical Controlled Level	Percent Reduction
Dioxin/furan (ng/dscm) total mass	1,000	3	99+ %
PM (mg/dscm)	3,700	4	99+ %
Cd (mg/dscm)	1.2	0.001	99+ %
Pb (mg/dscm)	25	0.01	99+ %
Hg (mg/dscm)	0.65	0.02	90+ %
SO ₂ (ppmv)	160	5	90+ %
HCl (ppmv)	500	10	95+ %
NO _x (ppmv)	225	130	40+ %

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 required EPA to establish emission guidelines for MWC units, based on the determination that MWC units cause, or significantly contribute to, air pollution that may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare. EPA finalized MWC emission guidelines in 1995 and revised these guidelines in 1997. The rules will bring significant reductions for pollutants of concern.
- The Clean Air Act requires States with affected MWC units to submit to EPA plans to implement and enforce the MWC emission guidelines within one year after EPA finalizes the MWC guidelines (i.e. by December 19, 1996).
- If a State with existing MWC units did not submit an approvable plan to EPA within two years of the final MWC emission guidelines (i.e. by December 19, 1997), EPA is required under the Act to develop, implement, and enforce a Federal plan for MWC units in that State.
- By adopting this MWC Federal plan, EPA is fulfilling its obligation to establish emission limits and other requirements for MWC units in States that do not have approved plans. The Federal plan applies to large MWC units until the date EPA approves a State plan that covers those units.

- The Federal plan has the same elements as a State plan, including source and emission inventories, emission limits, testing, monitoring, and reporting requirements, as well as generic or site-specific compliance schedules including increments of progress.

WHAT MWC UNITS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE FEDERAL PLAN?

- The Federal plan will apply to all large units (units with a combustion capacity greater than 250 tons of municipal waste per day) that began construction before September 20, 1994 that are not covered in an approved State plan. At this time, the MWC regulations affect plants in 24 states. As of the date of this Fact Sheet, EPA has approved State plans for Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, South Carolina, and Tennessee. At this time, the following States will be covered by the Federal plan: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the MWC Federal plan from EPA's web site on the Internet under "Proposed and Final Preambles and Rules" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3main.html>.

All related documents can be found on the Unified Air Toxics Website at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/uatw/129/mwc/rmw.html>. For further information about the MWC Federal plan, contact Ms. Julie Andresen McClintock of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5339. For further information about the MWC final emission guidelines, contact Mr. Walt Stevenson of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5264.

- For more information on other air pollution programs and issues, the Office of Air and Radiation home page can be accessed at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/oar>.
- Regional Contact for Region 10 is Heather Valdez at (206) 553-6220 or valdez.heather@epa.gov